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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Agent for Applicant respectfully requests the following amendments to the claims without adding any new subject matter, namely:

1. [Amended] A pedestal adapted to support a floor panel comprising.
 - (a) a base;
 - (b) support means for supporting said floor panel above said base;
 - (c) [displaceable means] first and second rotatable engageable members operable between said base and said support means for selectively displacing said support means and said floor panel relative said base so as to level said floor pane, [while said floor panel is supported by said support means]
 - (d) said first rotatable engageable member engageable with said base for fixing said height of said first rotatable member relative said base.
2. [Amended] A pedestal as claimed in claim 1, including a locking means for:
 - (a) locking said floor panel to said support means; and
 - (b) inhibiting displacement of said [displaceable means] rotatable engageable members.
3. [Amended] A pedestal as claimed in claim 1 wherein said [displaceable means] rotatable engageable members comprise[s]:
 - (a) a first threaded member;
 - (b) a second threaded member engageable with said first threaded member for selectively displacing said support means relative said base.
4. [Amended] A pedestal as claimed in claim [3] 2, wherein said first threaded member has:
 - (a) one end fixedly rotatable to said base;
 - (b) another end presenting engageable means for rotating said first threaded member relative said second threaded member for selectively displacing said support means relative said base.

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- 5 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 4 wherein said second threaded member includes said support means.
- 6 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 5 wherein said support means includes a support surface extending generally outwardly for supporting said floor panel.
- 7 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 6 wherein said first and second threaded members are both either left handed or right handed threads.
- 8 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 7 wherein said locking means includes:
- (a) an internally threaded locking hole presented at said other end of said first threaded member, and;
 - (b) an externally threaded bolt adapted for threaded engagement with said internally threaded locking hole;
- to;
- (c) lock said floor panel to said support;
 - (d) inhibit displacement of said first and second threaded members.
- 9 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 8 wherein said internally threaded locking hole and said externally threaded locking bolt are both the other one of said right handed or left handed threads.
- 10 [Amended] A pedestal as claimed in claim 3 wherein said first threaded member has:
- (a) one end threadably engageable with said base[s] so as to adjust the height of said first threaded member relative said base;
 - (b) another end [threably] threadably engageable with said locking means;[.]
 - (c) locking a rm for locking said height of said first threaded member relative said base.
- 11 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 10 wherein said second threaded member presents:

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- (a) said support means;
 - (b) engageable means for threadably rotating said support means relative said base.
12. cancel
13. [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 10 wherein said support means comprises:
- (a) support member extending outwardly and presenting an internally threaded hole threadedly engageable with said first threaded member;
 - (b) a hexagonal head adapted for engagement for displacing said support member relative said first threaded member;
 - (c) a support guide resting on said support member for locating said floor panel, said support guide including a hole therethrough for receiving said hexagonal head and said other end of said first threaded member.
- 14 [Original] A pedestal for supporting the corners of adjacent floor panels comprising:
- (a) a base;
 - (b) first and second threadably engageable members extending generally coaxially relative said base;
 - (c) one of said first and second threaded members including:
 - (i) a support extending generally radially outwardly for supporting said corners of said floor panels;
 - (ii) engageable means adapted for threaded rotation of said first threaded member relative said second threaded member so as to select the height of said support relative said base and level said floor panels while said floor panels are supported by said support.
- 15 [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 14 wherein:
- (a) said first threaded member comprises of a generally cylindrical externally threaded first member having:

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- (i) one end connected to said base for relative rotation thereabouts;
 - (ii) another end presenting coaxially a hexagonal head accessible from above said floor panels;
 - (b) said second threaded member comprising a generally cylindrical internally threaded tube open at both ends and defining said second threaded member engageable with said externally threaded first member, said second threaded member presenting:
 - (i) a generally radially extending support for supporting a bottom corner of said floor panels;
 - (ii) a bevelled edge at said one open end adapted to engage an upper corner of said floor panels and permit access to said hexagonal head for rotation of said first threaded member relative said second threaded member to select the height of said support and said floor panels and level said floor panels from above said floor panels.
16. [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 15 including a locking means for:
- (a) locking said floor panels to said support; and
 - (b) wherein said upper surface of said floor panels have a turn down corner adapted to engage said bevelled edge.
17. [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 14 wherein:
- (a) said base includes a threaded hole,
 - (b) said first threaded member comprises a generally cylindrical externally threaded first member having:
 - (i) one end threadably engageable with said threaded hole with said base for selecting the height of said first threaded member relative said base;
 - (ii) and another end;

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- (c) a locking arm for locking the selected height of said first threaded member relative said base:

[(c)](d)said second threaded member comprising a generally radially extending support adapted to support said bottom of said floor panels, and an [externally] internally threaded hole engageable with said externally threaded first member for selected axial displacement of said second threaded member relative said first member so as to adjust the height and level of said floor panels relative said base.

18. [Original] A pedestal as claimed in claim 17 including a locking means for locking said floor panels to said support, said locking means engageable with said another end of said first threaded member.
19. withdrawn
20. withdrawn
21. [New] A pedestal as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first rotatable engageable member includes a groove and said base includes projections engageable with said grooves for fixing the height of said first rotatable engageable member relative said base.
22. [New] A pedestal as claimed in claim 1 including a locking arm for locking said first rotatable engageable member with said base

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ELECTION

Agent for Applicant confirms telephone conference with Examiner on March 16, 2004 to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely, claims 1-18 without prejudice in filing claims 19 and 20 at a future date which claims are being withdrawn in a non-elected invention.

Furthermore Examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentability distinct species, namely:

1. specie 1, figures 1-4
2. specie 2, figures 5-7.

Furthermore Examiner stated that Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic is finally held to be allowable. Currently claim 1 is generic.

Applicant is further requested to include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement and that a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added.

In this regard Agent for Applicant elects specie 2, figures 5-7. As requested, Agent for Applicant respectfully states that the following claims read on the following specie namely:

Species 1 and 2	claims 1, 2, 3, 14,
Specie 1	claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21
Specie 2	claims 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 22

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35 U.S.C. § 102

Examiner stated that claims 1-9 and 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Chen 5,791,096. Agent for Applicant respectfully states that Chen does not teach:

1. A first rotatable engageable member engageable with the base for fixing the height of the first rotatable member relative to the base;
2. A locking arm for locking the adjusted height of the first threaded member relative to the base;
3. first rotatable engageable member which includes a groove and the base includes projections engageable with said groove for fixing the height of the first rotatable engageable member relative the base.

In particular Agent for Applicant respectfully states that Chen does not teach "another end presenting engageable means 121 for rotating the first member relative to the second member for displacing the support means" as the numeral 121 relates to longitudinal reinforcing ribs 121 (see col. 2, line 41).

Furthermore the first threaded member shown in Chen does not teach fixing the height of the first rotatable member relative to the base.

In particular Applicant teaches:

More particularly the first threaded member 16 has one end 20 fixedly rotatable to the base 8. At the bottom of the first threaded 16 there is a groove 22 that permits the base 8 to engage and affix to the groove 22. More specifically the base 8 includes projections 24 which are adapted to threadably spin the base 8 unto one end 26 of the threaded member 16 until the projection 24 hits the groove 22. Thereafter the base 8 will freely turn but not fall off the pedestal 2 when the pedestal is lifted. Generally speaking the first threaded member 16 should preferably rotate relative to the base 8 to prevent binding (see page 4, lines 22-30) of Applicant's disclosure

The first threaded member 16 is stationary once locked by the locking arm 80 for fine adjustment from above the floor panel 6; and adjusts in base 8 for rough pre-assembly height. The length of the first threaded member 16 may vary to allow for different floor heights (see page 11, lines 20-24 of Applicant's disclosure).

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The invention shown by Chen teaches that the first threaded member 14 moves up or down relative to the base. Furthermore Propst shown in U.S. Patent No. 5,333,423 also shows a first threaded member 16 which moves up or down relative to the base 14 during adjustment. Applicant on the other hand shows in specie 1 that although the first threaded member rotates relative to the base it does not move up down relative to the base during height adjustment; whereas the locking arm locks the first threaded member in specie 2 when selecting a rough height of the first threaded member relative to the base.